

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-02

A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING A PETITION FOR ANNEXATION OF PROPERTIES WITHIN BELLINGHAM'S NORTHEASTERN URBAN GROWTH AREA TO THE CITY OF BELLINGHAM AND INITIATING THE ANNEXATION REVIEW PROCESS FOR THE BRITTON ROAD / NORTHERN HEIGHTS ANNEXATION

WHEREAS, the City received a petition for annexation of properties located in the City's Northeastern Urban Growth Area (UGA); and

WHEREAS, on October 19, 2023, the owners of property located in the City's UGA submitted a petition for annexation of approximately 146-acres to the City of Bellingham and on January 29, 2024, all required application materials were determined complete; and

WHEREAS, the annexation petition represents over 10% of the assessed valuation of the area proposed for annexation to the City of Bellingham; and

WHEREAS, according to RCW 35.13.125 not less than 10% of the residents of an area to be annexed or the owners of not less than 10% in property value, according to the assessed valuation for general taxation of the property for which annexation is petitioned, shall notify the legislative body of the city or town in writing of their intention to commence annexation proceedings; and

WHEREAS, under RCW 35.13.125, the legislative body is to hold a meeting not later than sixty days after the filing of the petition with the initiating parties to determine whether the city would accept, reject, or geographically modify the proposed annexation, whether it shall require the simultaneous adoption of the comprehensive plan, and whether it shall require the assumption of all or any portion of existing city indebtedness; and

WHEREAS, the City and Whatcom County identified this area appropriate for urban development in Whatcom County's Urban Fringe Subarea Plan; and

WHEREAS, on March 26, 2018, the City Council adopted an updated Annexation Strategy to be used as a reference document and a guide for City and County staff, service providers, and the City Council; and

WHEREAS, the Bellingham City Council held a meeting on March 25, 2024, to determine whether the City would accept, reject, or geographically modify the proposed annexation, whether it shall require the simultaneous adoption of new comprehensive plan and zoning designation, and whether it shall require the assumption of all or any portion of existing city indebtedness.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BELLINGHAM:

1. The City accepts the petition for annexation of properties to the City of Bellingham for further evaluation in accordance with City regulations and State law with the proposed annexation boundary as shown on Exhibit A; and
2. City staff is directed to provide additional information regarding the proposed annexation, including an evaluation of the potential benefits and service impacts of the proposed annexation; and
3. If the annexation is approved, the City will require simultaneous adoption of new comprehensive plan, zoning and development regulations consistent with Bellingham's Comprehensive Plan and require the annexed area to assume its fair share of the City's indebtedness.

PASSED by the Council this 25th day of March, 2024.



Council President

APPROVED by me this 8 day of April, 2024.



Mayor

ATTEST: 

Finance Director

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Office of the City Attorney

